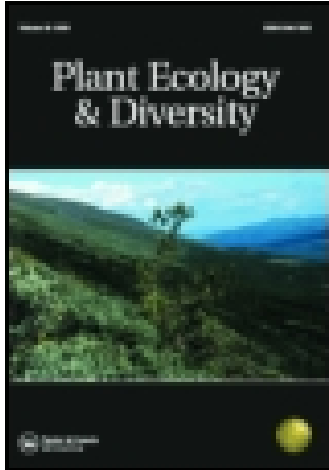


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II. Notice of a New British Moss (*Amblystegium confervoides* of Bruch and Schimper) in Dovedale, Staffordshire

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warm-hearted man, of a loving disposition, and without bigotry. He had a truly catholic spirit, and gained friends wherever he went, and never lost an opportunity of speaking a seasonable word for his Master. His health was not strong, and he had occasionally to retire for a season from his labours, with the view of gaining strength in the country. Last summer he was confined to bed for several months with illness, and he died peaceful and happy at 48 Euston Square, on Thursday, 24th November 1867, at the age of fifty-three. A friend, in writing to me recently, says:—"I am glad you are going to notice James Hamilton at the next meeting of the Botanical Society. For two years I sat in Regent Square Church after I came to London, and I was specially struck with the frequent use he made of nature in illustrating his subjects, and the remarkable accuracy and precision of all his references to science. While he looked on nature with a poet's eye, he had all the exact knowledge of a student. He did not use his science to round a sentence or ornament a paragraph; but his scientific illustrations always made more obvious his meaning or advanced his argument. He was the most lovable man I ever met with."

DR SCHULTZ.

Dr Carl Heinrich Schultz (Bipontinus), a well-known German botanist, died at Dreidesheim, on 17th December last, at the age of sixty-three. He was a corresponding member of the Society.

II. *Notice of a New British Moss* (*Amblystegium confervoides* of *Bruch and Schimper*) in *Dovedale, Staffordshire*. By DR JOHN FRASER. Communicated by Mr JOHN SADLER. (Plate IV.)

I have had the good fortune to add one more to the list of British Mosses, and beg to submit an account of the new species to the Botanical Society, with drawings and specimens.

Specimens have been forwarded to Mr Wilson, author of the "*Bryologia Britannica*," and likewise to Professor Schimper of Strasburg, both of whom have examined it, and

come to the same opinion respecting it. They both state that, although not new to science, it was not previously known to exist in the British Isles. It has been found in some parts of Europe, and is considered a very rare and interesting moss. It is known by the name of *Amblystegium confervoides*.

On the 29th November 1866, I visited Dovedale, along with another gentleman, for the purpose of examining it for mosses. It is well known to geologists that this singularly romantic dale is formed of mountain limestone. The rocks rise on both sides to a considerable height, at one time with a gradual slope, and again quite abruptly from the margin of the stream which flows through it. The moss was picked up in that portion of it which belongs to Staffordshire, growing in patches more or less extensive, not on the bark of trees, nor on the solid rock, but on detached stones of small size in shady places. I have revisited the dale this summer with Mr Wilson. There was not leisure to examine much of the valley; but we did not succeed in finding it, except on the spot where it was first discovered, and in the immediate neighbourhood, and that in small quantity. It is to be hoped that it may be found in other parts of the limestone in that district, as well as in other parts of England.

The moss itself is one of the smallest species. It has much affinity to *Hypnum incurvatum*, differing chiefly in its smaller size, hair-like depressed branches, and in the lax texture of the leaves which are quite destitute of nerve. At first it was thought to be *Amblystegium subtile*, but this has a straight, nearly erect capsule, no cilia to the inner peristome, and leaves faintly nerved.

The drawings were made by Mr Wilson himself at my request. He has also furnished the following description of it:—

Amblystegium confervoides of Bruch and Schimper is monœcious, growing in patches on stones in shady places; stems creeping, very slender, sub-pinnate, sparingly branched, branches capilliform, leaves scattered, secund, more or less spreading, ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, entire, nerveless; perichæatial leaves longer, erect; capsule cernuous, oblong, slightly incurved, pale brown, semi-pellucid;

operculum convex, apiculate, annulus small, deciduous; inner peristome with cilia, outer peristome yellow; fruit-stalk one-third of an inch long.

I am sorry that I have not more perfect specimens to lay before the Society. Some of the capsules are immature, others are old. Indeed, the plant does not appear to fruit freely.

III. *Account of a Botanical Trip to the Vosges Mountains.*

By R. M. STARK, Esq.

IV. *Letter from Mr WM. BELL, dated Kaoligir (Dera Doon), 2d November 1867, to Professor Balfour.*

Forest management now receives a much larger share of the public attention than it formerly did, judging from the number of articles bearing on that subject that have lately appeared in some of the Indian papers. I shall endeavour to give, as it were, a bird's eye view of some of the forests which I passed through in a visit to the hills about two years ago. In doing so, I need not trouble you with any remarks about the vegetation, from the plains upwards—why some are well wooded, and others close to them are quite bare—why those with a western aspect are better wooded than those with an eastern one—why the crests of both the first and second ranges on the side facing the plains have nothing but a scrubby, scanty vegetation, while the back slopes have, as a rule, quite an arborescent one—but proceed to tell you what they are chiefly composed of, and the appearance they present to a stranger.

They are chiefly composed of oak—perhaps four or five species—I have observed one* only, perhaps two, on the outer range. Next Rhododendrons in point of size and numbers, and a sprinkling of Arbutus, which can scarcely be called a tree; *Ilex*, *Benthamia*, a few horse-chesnuts, and a *Cedrela*. There is very little underwood, and climbers are entirely wanting. In these respects hill forests contrast strikingly with those of the plains.

In the bottom of the deep valleys, *Cesalpinia*, *Mimosa*, *Guilandina*, *Smilax*, &c., form most impenetrable thickets,

* *Quercus incana*.



AMBLYSTEGIUM CONFERVOIDES.

Fig. 1. Plant, natural size.

„ 2. Capsule, (dry,) (14 diam.)

„ 3. The same while moist.

„ 4. Calyptra.

Fig. 5. Portion of a branch, (49 diam.)

„ 6. Leaf.

„ 7. The same magnified, (195 diam.)

„ 8. Perichaetium, (14 diam.)